

Appl. No. 10/766,846  
Amdt. Dated January 18, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of January 3, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus incorporating potted hollow fibre membranes, the apparatus having,
  - a) a solid mass of a potting material having a first face;
  - b) a plurality of hollow fibre membranes sealed in the potting material; and,
  - c) terminal portions of the hollow fibre membranes adjacent open ends of the membranes protruding from the first face, wherein,
  - d) the solid mass of potting material extends to and adhesively secures to the inner periphery of a permeate collection means to form a permeate collection zone; and,
  - e) the open-ended terminal portions of the hollow fibre membranes protrude into the permeate collection zone.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the permeate collection means is a permeate pan ~~or an end cap~~.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the permeate collection means further comprises walls enclosing a plenum adjacent to the permeate collection zone into which plenum a gas may be introduced.

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6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising an air tube passing through the potting material, the air tube having a first end protruding from a second face of the potting material from which the membranes extend and a second end in communication with the plenum.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the potting material extends to and adhesively secures to the air tube.
8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an air tube, the air tube passing through the potting material, the air tube having a first end protruding from a second face of the potting material from which the membranes extend and a second end in communication with a plenum or manifold into which air may be introduced.
9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the potting material extends to and adhesively secures to the air tube.